

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1071

By Moore

A RESOLUTION to honor Hazard 12 of the Nashville Fire Department on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay homage to those sterling organizations and their individual members who perform their duties with extraordinary dedication and diligence as exemplary public servants; and

WHEREAS, through their special endeavors, these praiseworthy people have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents in order to perpetuate the public good and the public safety, and they are a credit to their respective professions, their communities, and their families; and

WHEREAS, the members of Nashville Fire Department's Hazard 12 are such estimable citizens and are deserving of special praise and commendation on the occasion of the laudable unit's thirtieth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Fire Department's Hazardous Materials program was organized at Station 12 in 1978, as part of the State's response to the disastrous explosion of a railroad car transporting liquid petroleum gas in the town of Waverly; Tennessee subsequently became a national leader in educating and training teams to appropriately and safely manage similarly dangerous situations through the establishment of the Tennessee Hazardous Materials Institute; and

WHEREAS, under the initiative and leadership of Fire Chiefs Buddy Cooper (deceased), Stan Eller (deceased), and George Street (deceased), Hazard 12 became one of the Nation's preeminent hazmat units, and it still serves as a benchmark of excellence to which other hazmat teams aspire; and

WHEREAS, the admirable founding personnel of Hazard 12 were Captain Jerry West, Captain Harry E. White (deceased), Captain Jerry Smith, Chris Russell, Arthur “Blinky” Bergeron, Tommy “Squirrel” Allen, Jim Lawrence, R.J. Corbin, John Petty, Ronald Bebout, Bobby Binkley (deceased), Jim Holmes, Anthony Tomlinson, Joe Yates, Terry Secrest, Ronald Ward, Tom Guthrie, Kenny Davis, Ricky White, Bernie Godin, and David Bennett; and

WHEREAS, throughout its thirty years of existence, Hazard 12 has dutifully served the people of Nashville and surrounding communities through its members’ unswerving commitment and willingness to risk their personal safety in order to protect their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, performing their tasks with great courage and élan, the present and past members of Hazard 12 should be specially recognized for their impeccable record of public service and their many contributions to the advancement of hazardous materials emergency response in our State and across the country; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the heroes who comprise Nashville Fire Department’s Hazard 12, recognize this excellent organization’s thirtieth anniversary, and extend our best wishes for success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.